



Tornado Safety



Tornados kill over 700 people annually in the U.S. and 1,500 more are severely injured each year. Staying safe during times of inclement weather is your responsibility and one you should take seriously. Your life depends on it!

More information:

**City of Riverside Fire Department
Office of Emergency Management
(951) 320-8100**

- A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Tornados are not just a Midwest problem. Damaging tornados have touched down in the Riverside area and have caused significant damage and injuries.
- Tornados can produce winds in excess of 250 mph.
- Tornados may exceed 1 mile in width and stay on the ground for over 50 miles.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can happen at any time.
- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of your home, such as a bathroom, closet or room without windows. Cover yourself with a mattress or cushions.
- In an office building, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out and take shelter in a nearby building. If there are none, lie flat in a ditch or ravine.
- Never stay inside a car. Get out and lie flat in a ditch or a ravine. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car.
- At school, follow plans and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.
- In a shopping center, move towards the interior, away from exterior glass walls.
- If you are in open country, take cover in a low spot away from trees.
- Learn the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. A Tornado Watch means watch the sky. A Tornado Warning means a tornado is on the ground and you must seek shelter immediately.

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
(951) 320-8100
www.ReadyRiverside.com**